

Braintree & Bocking
URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

C. R. C. RAINSFORD
M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

FOR THE YEAR

1963

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

BRAINTREE AND BOCKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Medical Officer of Health

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector

S. F. BAYLEY, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

W. G. THURSTON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

N. D. GAYLER, M.A.P.H.I. (Until January, 1963)

D. H. VINCENT, M.A.P.H.I. (from May, 1963)

Junior Clerk

Miss C. M. RATHE

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
Town Hall, Braintree.
September, 1964.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the annual report for 1963 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the urban district. I am indebted to Dr. Miller Wood for providing the information on clinics run by the Essex County Council.

Vital Statistics

You will note that the Registrar General's estimated population is now 20,970, an increase of 216 on 1962.

Sixteen more babies were born and there were eleven more deaths than in the previous year.

The corrected birth rate of 18.5 per 1,000 estimated population is just above the figure for England and Wales 18.2, and the corrected death rate of 10.4 per 1,000 is below the over-all national figure of 12.2.

There were 6 infant deaths compared with 4 in 1962. Causes of death were Anoxia 1, Prematurity 1, Acute leukaemia 1 and Congenital abnormalities 3.

There were 279 deaths altogether and these include 14 from cancer of lung or bronchus. This compares with 6 in 1962 and 11 in 1961. We are dealing with small numbers and so must not pay too much attention to the increase, as fluctuations are to be expected. Nevertheless the trend is upwards and this is in keeping with the experience of England and Wales as a whole. And yet cancer of the lung is largely a preventable disease. The great majority of experts agree that there is a close correlation between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung. The more cigarettes you smoke the greater your chance of contracting this disease. Of course it is a long term process and there is nothing we can do now to bring down the rate next year or the year after. But a reduction in cigarette smoking would be showing results perhaps in 10 or 15 years' time. This is a national problem and needs a big national effort. Something has been done, but not enough. It is difficult to convert the confirmed adult smoker, but I am sure we should try and bring the facts home to our young people. To this end your Council booked the Mobile Unit of the Central Council of Health Education to visit Braintree in September. Two days were spent in the town and lectures, demonstrations and film shows given in the schools and at the College of Further Education. The unit was well received, intelligent questions were asked and it is hoped that in some cases the message went home.

In addition, a fair amount of anti-smoking propaganda is carried on in schools by advice from teachers and medical officers and through leaflets.

Notifiable Infectious Disease

Two hundred and four cases were notified during the year. These included 190 cases of measles, 7 of scarlet fever, 6 of pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 of whooping cough.

Immunisation and Vaccination

The immunisation sessions were carried on as in previous years, details of the work done can be found in the table later in this report.

The triple vaccine which protects against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is now generally used.

Environmental Hygiene

This has been dealt with very fully by your Chief Public Health Inspector in the latter part of this report, so I will content myself with a few comments.

WATER

In 1955 I wrote in my first annual report “. . . the pumps are working to near full capacity to maintain an adequate supply. In view of possible increases in the town's population this must be borne in mind and may, perhaps, add a note of urgency to the Council's proposals for a new supply.” In the 1961 report I was able to write “It is therefore gratifying to know that as from June, 1961, water from the new Codham Borehole has been circulating in the mains.” The story was continued in 1962 — “There was no shortage of water during the year and at all times the water was of a high standard bacteriologically, i.e., free from disease germs. The unpleasant odours experienced at times is due to lack of oxygen in the water coming direct from the Colham supply. It will be removed when the aeration and softening plants are completed, possibly towards the end of 1963.”

They were not completed in 1963, but I am assured that there is every prospect that they will be in 1964. I look forward to completing the story next year and I am sure the housewives will appreciate having a softened water. Braintree water has always been of a high bacteriological standard but hard.

Housing

More houses were built in 1963 than in 1962, 66 by the Council compared with 25 and 97 by private enterprise compared with 66. The improvement was due in part at least to completion of the extensions to the Braintree sewage works and the lifting of the ban on building.

Special priority for re-housing was recommended after enquiry for 44 applicants.

It only remains for me to record my thanks to Mr. Bayley and his staff for their hard work and co-operation and to the Chairman and all members of the Public Health Committee for their full support at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
Town Hall, Braintree,

August, 1964.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRAINTREE AND
BOCKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1963.

The report follows the customary pattern and the various matters coming within the purview of the department are dealt with under their respective headings. I would like however, to comment here on one or two matters.

The administration of the whole of the Shops Act, 1950, became the responsibility of the Council from 1st April, 1963, and your officers are now concerned with the hours of closing, conditions of employment, the employment of young persons and Sunday trading in shops. Formerly, the Council were only responsible for those sections dealing with the health and comfort of shop-workers. Owing to staff difficulties during the first half of the year and the need to concentrate all available staff on meat inspection from October onwards it was not possible to do as much work under this Act as one would have wished. However, all shop premises will have to be surveyed within the terms of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, which received Royal Assent on the 31st July, 1963, and comes into force on 1st August, 1964. This enactment amends the 1950 Shops Act so far as it relates to the health and comfort of shop-workers and the opportunity will be taken during the survey to check on the other aspects of the Shops Act.

On the 1st October, 1963, the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, came into operation and the main provisions are briefly set out in the body of the report. The reason for referring to them here is to emphasize the extra work they have placed on authorities such as ours and the difficulties which may face us for some time to come in the matter of retaining sufficient staff to implement the Regulations. The acute shortage of inspectors means that there will be more movement of staff between authorities and if and when we find ourselves short of establishment, other duties will necessarily suffer in the maintenance of the meat inspection service.

With regard to Housing, what will probably be the last clearance area in the original programme was submitted to you late in 1963 and the manner of its treatment will be resolved in 1964. This will leave houses in small isolated groups to be dealt with as individual unfit properties. The pace of improvement and repair of old houses continued much the same as in 1962. The new Housing Act expected in 1964 will give the Council compulsory powers for the improvement of dwellings.

I acknowledge your continued support and the generous co-operation and assistance of my staff and fellow officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. F. BAYLEY.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	6,811
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	20,970
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	6,884
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£943,424
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£3,833

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	359	167	192	
Illegitimate	33	13	20	
Total live births	392			
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	18.7
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	8.4
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.99	...	...	...	18.5
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	...	18.2

STILL-BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	4	3	1	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	10.1
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	...	17.3
Total live and still births—396.				

INFANT DEATHS:

Deaths of infants under 1 year—

	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	6	4	2	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Total infant deaths—6				
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	15.3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	16.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	12.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	22.7
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	20.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS:

	Total	Male	Female	
	279	141	138	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	13.3
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.78	...	...	...	10.4
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	...	...	12.2

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1963

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	5	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	12	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	7	14
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	21	26
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	35	24
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	3	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	4	15
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	11	5
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	13	12
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	8	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	...	...	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	9	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
All Causes				141	138

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:—

(i) **Braintree**—Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road:—

		By Appt.	Attendances
Speech Therapy (No Speech Therapist between 21.10.63 & 31.12.63)	Every Monday		388
Child Welfare	Every Tuesday	2 p.m.	2,025
Ante-Natal and Women's Welfare	Every Wednesday	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	237
School Clinic	Every Tuesday	10 a.m.	392
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	Every Tuesday and 1st Friday	(By Appt.)	
Dental	Monday, Wednesday and Friday	10 a.m.	2,713
Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation	1st Friday	3 p.m.	
Bocking —Village Hall.			
Child Welfare	4th Thursday	2 p.m.	138

(ii) **Home Help Service**:—

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) **Ambulance Service**:—

The ambulance station is situated in Cressing Road, Braintree. A full 24 hour cover is provided.

(iv) **Laboratory Services**:—

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1., or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:—

(i) **Chest Clinics**:—

These are held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases		Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	—	—	—
Encephalitis	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	190	—	—
Meningococcal Infection		—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ..		—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis		—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	7	—	—
Tuberculosis, pulmonary		6	4	2
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary		—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	1	—	—
Totals ...		204	4	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

Diseases	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	190	42	25	13	36	33	8	14	7	1	9	2	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	1	—	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Pulmonary ...	6	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	204	44	25	15	38	36	9	15	7	1	10	2	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

Diseases	At all Ages	under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and Over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	190	2	28	21	26	22	86	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	—	—	1	2	1	3	—	—	3	1	1	1	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	204	2	28	22	28	23	90	3	1	4	1	1	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 - 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 - 34	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 64	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	5	1	—	—	2	—	—	—

Of these 2 were cases re-notified on taking up residence in the district during 1963.

VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION

				BY GENERAL	BY COUNTY	TOTALS
PRIMARY COURSES				PRACTITIONERS	STAFF	
Diphtheria, Pertussis & Tetanus	...	...	...	219	19	238
Diphtheria & Tetanus	...	...	...	—	5	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pertussis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tetanus	...	...	...	5	69	74
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	205	74	279
Smallpox	...	...	...	62	—	62
RE-INFORCING DOSES						
Diphtheria, Pertussis & Tetanus	...	...	...	29	—	29
Diphtheria & Tetanus	...	...	...	39	44	83
Diphtheria	...	...	...	9	1	10
Pertussis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tetanus	...	...	...	2	1	3
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	75	120	195
Smallpox	...	...	...	43	—	43

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

During 1963 the amount of water extracted from the varying sources underwent a considerable change. Over half of the total amount was obtained from the Codham borehole, the greater part of the remainder was obtained from the Notley Road borehole and only 11 million gallons from the other sources. All water was chlorinated before passing into the mains and none is liable to have a plumbo-solvent action.

Although work on the treatment plant for Codham water was not completed, it was felt that the inherent disadvantage of this water, namely odour, hardness and lack of aeration, would be largely compensated by an adequate supply being available. This was borne out and to help the tolerance of the public a policy of increased chlorination and regular flushing of dead ends of the mains was adopted. In consequence remarkably few complaints were received.

During the year, the various supplies were tested for fluorine content and as will be seen by reference to the chemical results this varied from 1 ppm. to 3.4 ppm. When the Codham scheme is finished it is anticipated that about 85 per cent. of the supply will be from Codham with the remaining 15 per cent. from the Notley Road Works. These supplies will be mixed giving a fluorine content of the order of 1.3 ppm.

The number of samples submitted during the year for bacteriological examination was as follows:—

			Raw Water	Water in Supply	Total
Notley Road Waterworks	...	3		1	4
Codham Borehole	...	1		3	4
Bocking Waterworks	...	1		—	1
Supplied by Braintree R.D.C.	...	—		1	1
High Garrett	...	1		1	2
Private Wells	...	—		2	2

All samples from public supplies were reported upon as being satisfactory. Of the samples from private supplies one was reported as satisfactory. In the other case the sample was taken upon the owner inquiring about an improvement grant and shewed poor bacterial results and a high nitrate content. The owner was advised and he is to decide whether to instal a filter or connect to the main supply.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and the result of four samples were given as follows:—

Sample from Braintree Waterworks: 9.1.63

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance	Bright with particles		Turbidity	...	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	Nil	Odour	...	...	Nil
pH	...	7.9	Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	6
Electric Conductivity	...	1880	Dissolved Solids dried at	...	...
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	420	180°C	...	...	1250
Hardness: Total	...	125	Alkalinity as Calcium	...	...
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	0.0	Carbonate	...	...	285
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	0.73	Carbonate	...	...	125
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0.000	Non-carbonate	...	...	0
Metals: Iron	...	0.10	Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	absent
Fluoride	...	3.4	Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	0.30
			Residual Chlorine	...	...	absent
			Zinc, Copper, Lead	...	...	absent

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate; it is normal with respect to its somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents. The organic quality and bacterial purity of the water are of a high standard.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses. Its content of chloride may however be noticeable to the palate of some consumers and its content of fluoride is higher than is considered most desirable from the aspect of causing mottled enamel.

Sample from Bocking Waterworks: 15.1.63.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with very slight deposit. Microscopical examination: Mineral matter.		Turbidity	...	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	Nil	Odour	...	Nil
pH	...	7.2	Free Carbon Dioxide	...	35
Electric Conductivity	...	1010	Dissolved Solids dried at	...	
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	132	180°C	...	670
Hardness: Total	...	310	Alkalinity as Calcium	...	
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	0.2	Carbonate	...	305
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	0.37	Carbonate	...	305
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0.000	Non-carbonate	...	5
Metals: Iron	...	0.10	Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than	0.01
Fluoride	...	1.6	Oxygen Absorbed	...	0.20
			Residual Chlorine	...	absent
			Zinc, Copper, Lead	...	absent

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents are not considered excessive. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purpose.

Sample from Codham borehole: 9.1.63.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance with particles.	Faint opalescence	Turbidity ...	Less than 3
Colour ...	...	Odour slight "hydrogen Sulphide"	...
pH ...	...	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	28
Electric Conductivity ...	990	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C ...	680
Chlorine present as Chloride	125	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	300
Hardness: Total ...	365	Carbonate ...	300
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.0	Non-carbonate ...	65
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.30	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.000	Oxygen Absorbed ...	0.20
Metals: Iron ...	0.35	Residual Chlorine ...	absent
Fluoride ...	1.0	Zinc, Copper, Lead ...	absent

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes. Its content of iron is however greater than is usually desirable in a public supply from the aspect of maintaining satisfactory conditions in the distribution system; similarly the water would benefit from aeration.

Sample from Borehole, High Garrett: 18.6.63.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance with no visible deposit.	Faint opalescence	Turbidity ...	Less than 3
Colour ...	Nil	Odour ...	Normal
pH ...	7.5	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	15
Electric Conductivity ...	990	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C ...	660
Chlorine present as Chloride	156	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	260
Hardness: Total ...	200	Carbonate ...	200
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.3	Non-carbonate ...	0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.60	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.000	Oxygen Absorbed ...	0.10
Metals: Iron ...	0.22	Residual Chlorine ...	—
Fluoride ...	1.9	Zinc, Copper, Lead ...	absent

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents are not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality. The bacterial counts on agar are somewhat high, but the absence of coliform bacteria from 100 ml is considered satisfactory.

These results are indicative of a wholesome water, very suitable for treatment for public supply purposes.

Water Consumption in the District

The amount of water pumped during 1963:—

Notley Road Waterworks	...	...	...	151,282,900
Bocking Waterworks	...	...	...	8,620,250
Codham Borehole	...	...	...	187,601,333
By Meter from Braintree R.D.C.	...	...	...	1,052,816
Borehole, High Garrett	...	...	...	1,585,500
Total				350,142,799

I am indebted to the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer for the above figures.

Based on the total population of 20,970, and allowing for 129 persons occupying 43 houses who do not obtain a supply from the public mains these figures represent an overall consumption of 46.0 gallons per head per day. The amount of water supplied through meters for trade and agricultural purposes was 64,443,560 gallons which is equivalent to 8.4 gallons per head per day leaving a net consumption per head per day of 37.6 gallons for domestic purposes.

The total amount of water distributed was 11.6% greater than in 1962. Water used for testing the reservoir and flushing the mains account for part of this increase as does a considerable amount of water wasted following bursts to pipes in the severe cold weather at the beginning of the year. The supply was adequate for the present needs of the district.

It is estimated that 20,841 persons who occupy 6,841 houses are served by public mains. Of these, 14 houses with an estimated population of 42 are served by 9 standpipes situated in the open.

There are 43 houses with private supplies, 39 of which are piped inside.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year the improvements at the Braintree sewage works were completed with the exception of the recirculation system which will be completed in 1964. The improvements, consisting of new settlement tanks, circular humus tank, a micro-strainer, and increased sludge drying and storage capacity were in use at the end of the year and a reasonable effluent resulted. With the works in full operation this improvement of effluent will be maintained.

Work proceeded at the Bocking works, half of the filters, humus tanks and settlement tanks being completed. The Bocking intercepting sewer was laid but is not in use yet. The works are scheduled to be completed in 1965.

The Surveyor is responsible for the Sewage works and I am grateful for the above information which he has supplied.

Again results of samples taken by the Essex River Board showed a generally unsatisfactory picture, subject to the improvement mentioned above. Of 8 samples taken from the Braintree works four were regarded as very unsatisfactory and three of unsatisfactory suspended solids content. One further sample taken at the inlet to the micro-strainer had a high suspended solids content and a sample of the storm overflow was reported as "a grossly polluting liquid, a strong crude sewage unfit for discharge to stream." At the Bocking works 7 samples were taken, two of which were not discharged directly to stream, all were unsatisfactory.

The drains of three houses, previously connected to a cesspool have been re-laid and connected to the main sewer.

Due to the progress of the clearance programme pail closets at 13 houses have been discontinued and 6 houses sharing three water closets no longer share.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections.

During the year 1963, the following inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors to the premises detailed:—

Nature of Inspections	Primary Inspections	Revisits	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act	18	24	42
Housing—Public Health Act	52	81	133
Other Visits—Housing Act	74	14	88
Other Visits—Public Health Act	91	51	142
Improvement Grants	73	214	287
Water Supply	33	14	47
Water and Sampling	14	—	14
Notifiable Diseases	18	8	26
Food and Drugs Act	29	8	37
Food Hygiene Regulations	41	19	60
Ice Cream Premises	4	—	4
Ice Cream Sampling	22	—	22
Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations	33	27	60
Slaughterhouse Cruelty Regulations	24	9	33
Meat and Food Inspection:—			
(a) Slaughterhouses	2731	5	2736
(b) Shops	85	1	86
(c) Markets	46	—	46
Factories Act (Power)	—	5	5
Factories Act (Building Sites)	8	3	11
Shops Act	27	2	29
Drainage	69	66	135
Atmospheric Pollution	8	31	39
Overcrowding	1	—	1
Caravan Sites	16	13	29
Vermin and Insect Pests	26	17	43
Rat Infestations	10	—	10
Interviews Owners/Builders	66	—	66
Knackers Yard	8	—	8
Swimming Baths	39	—	39
Swimming Baths Sampling	11	—	11
Milk and Dairies' Order	1	—	1
Ret Animals' Act	1	—	1
Animal Boarding Establishment Act	4	—	4
Miscellaneous	100	1	101
	<u>3783</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>4396</u>

(ii)

Number of Informal Notices served	56
Number of Informal Notices complied with	41
Number of Statutory Notices Served	2
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	8

Sanitary Defects and Nuisances					Defects Etc. Found	Work Done or Abated
(a) HOUSING						
Defective roofs, rainwater pipes, etc.	...	...	...	...	16	11
Other external defects	...	...	...	...	4	2
Damp walls	...	...	...	...	3	7
Internal defects	...	...	...	...	3	2
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	2	1
(b) DRAINAGE						
Choked drains and W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	114	113
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	7	7
Defective soil pipes or vents	...	...	...	...	1	—
(c) GENERAL						
Defective W.C.'s and W.C. structures	...	...	...	...	12	9
Houses with defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	—	9
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	2	—
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	1	—
Contraventions of Factories' Act	...	...	...	...	4	2
Contraventions in Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	7	4

HOUSING

Sixty-six houses were completed by the Council during 1963 and a further ninety-seven privately.

Individual Unfit Houses

Undertakings not to let in lieu of Demolition Orders were accepted in respect of three houses. Seven houses, subjects of Demolition Orders, were demolished during the year.

Four houses which were the subjects of undertakings not to re-let and closed were demolished.

Re-housing

Five families were re-housed from houses subject to Demolition Orders and undertakings in 1963.

Repair of Houses

Twenty-three houses were made fit as a result of informal action under the Housing Act and the Public Health Act.

Improvement Grants

During the year there were forty-one applications for improvement grants. Eighteen Discretionary Grants were made for improving houses and two applications were refused. Twenty-one Standard Grants were made.

In seven cases further repairs and in one case additional structural work was required, and made a condition of grant.

The Council approved a total of £4,174 for Discretionary Grants and a maximum of £2,740 for Standard Grants. This amounted to an annual charge on the rates of £89 for discretionary grants and a maximum of £59 for Standard Grants.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	8	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	95	5	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	49	11	2	—
Total ...	152	16	4	—

II Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	2	—	2	—

Outworkers

There are fifteen outworkers in the District all engaged in the making of wearing apparel. No contraventions of Sections 133 and 134 were observed.

Shops' Act

During the year the administration of the parts of this Act concerning closing hours and the employment of young persons devolved upon the Council this work having previously been carried out by the Essex County Council. Owing to pressure of other work only 29 visits were made to the 263 shops in the area.

Atmospheric Pollution

The daily volumetric smoke and sulphur instrument continued to operate as part of the National Survey.

No decision has yet been made with regard to the formation of a Smoke Control Area. Further consideration is to be given to the making of an order in respect of a new Council Estate.

One application for the approval of the installation of a boiler under the Clean Air Act was made and granted.

Moveable Dwellings

Three permanent sites and one holiday site were licensed during the year together with a single caravan on Council owned land which does not require a licence. Of the permanent sites two are for single caravans.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

SWIMMING POOLS

The two open air swimming pools continued in operation during the year.

In addition an open air swimming pool was constructed at the Alec Hunter School. Advice was sought and given by the Public Health Inspectors during the installation and its subsequent operation. This pool is available for the pupils at that school during school hours for instructional purposes and is not for public use.

The privately owned pool changed hands during the year and was not open to the public for a considerable part of the season. There again, advice was given to the new owners.

Strict control is maintained during the season and 39 visits were made to the three pools when field tests for available chlorine were made and samples taken.

Two samples for bacteriological examination and one for chemical examination were taken from the privately owned pool in each case with satisfactory results.

Four samples for bacteriological examination and one for chemical examination taken from the Council pool were reported as being satisfactory.

One sample for bacteriological examination was taken from the School pool with a satisfactory result.

The Council pool is opened for special instruction sessions for school children from Braintree and surrounding areas.

INSECT PESTS

The occupiers of private slaughterhouses were advised and assisted regarding fly control and premises were kept under surveillance.

Advice and assistance were also given to occupiers regarding ants, crickets, cockroaches, and other pests in respect of 24 premises. In addition the Rodent Operator dealt with 92 wasps nests and 5 mole infestations.

The refuse tip became heavily infested with crickets at the end of the summer. Considerable powder dusting confined the infestation to the tip and some nearby houses. Eventually the infestation was brought under control.

Disease of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

The licence for one plant for the sterilization of waste foods operating in the area was renewed during the year.

Steam Disinfector

This apparatus was not used during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three licences to keep pet shops were renewed during the year.

Rodent Control

The services of a full time rodent operator were again shared with neighbouring authorities.

The work done during the year was as follows:—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections	...	807
Number of properties found to be infested and treated:—		
Major	... ..	8
Minor	... ..	285
Mice	... ..	14
Number of "block" control schemes carried out	...	2

During the period covered by this report, your Council continued the free treatment of domestic premises and the treatment of business premises upon a chargeable basis.

Legal Proceedings

There was no recourse to court action during the year. It was decided to prosecute a local trader in the case of a foreign body in food but the case was still pending at the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year one case of a foreign body in a milk bottle, five cases of foreign bodies in food and two cases of unsound food were dealt with.

Ice Cream

Two local manufacturers and their premises were registered for the manufacture storage and sale of ice cream and two premises were registered for the manufacture and sale of soft ice cream.

Ninety-five certificates of registration were in force covering vendors of ice cream retailing from shops and mobile vans in the area. A few vendors registered elsewhere in the County of Essex also operated in the Council's district.

Twenty-two samples of ice-cream were submitted for the methylene blue reduction test with the following results:

Manufactured in District		Manufactured outside District	
Six in Provisional Grade	I	Seven in Provisional Grade	I
Five in Provisional Grade	II	Nil in Provisional Grade	II
Three in Provisional Grade	III	One in Provisional Grade	III
Nil in Provisional Grade	IV	Nil in Provisional Grade	IV

It is pleasing to note that none of the samples taken had results in Provisional Grade IV.

Meat

All animals, including horses, slaughtered in the Council's area were inspected.

The Government continued the scheme for payment of a grant to local authorities who are carrying a heavy burden in connection with meat inspection and the Council qualified for a grant of £379 in respect of the financial year 1962-63.

This grant scheme was discontinued on 31st March due to the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, which came into force on 1st October.

The main provisions of these regulations are aimed at the inspection of all meat in slaughterhouses and an eventual ban on the removal of meat from slaughterhouses until it has been inspected. All meat inspected in accordance with the regulations and passed fit must be marked. The mark or stamp must identify the inspector who carries out the inspection.

The regulations also empower the local authority to make a charge for inspection.

Horseflesh slaughtered for human consumption in the Urban District is sold outside the Council's area.

The following sets out the particulars of animals slaughtered and of inspections and condemnations during the year:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	3812	501	115	3818	20611	1208
Number Inspected	3812	501	115	3818	20611	1208
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:—						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	8	9	4	4	3
Weight in lb. condemned	314	3665	1139	260	642	2573
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	154	101	7	7	531	28
Weight in lb. condemned	1222	973	18	22	2015	538
Percentage affected	3.9	21.8	13.9	0.3	2.6	2.4

Tuberculosis only:—

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	1	—	—	135	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	5	—	—	1387	—
Percentage affected	—	0.2	—	—	0.7	—

Cysticercosis:—

Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	30	2	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	529	426	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected	0.8	0.4	—	—	—	—

The system whereby all condemned meat and offals were collected on behalf of the Council by a private contractor and after treatment, used for animal feeding, was discontinued towards the end of the year and each slaughterhouse occupier accepted the responsibility for the satisfactory disposal of such meat and offal. Supervision by your Inspectors ensures that this method provides adequate safeguards to Public Health.

Other Foods

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the district, the following items were surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

	lb.		lb.
Tinned Fruit ...	320	Dried Fruit ...	60
Tinned Salmon ...	3	Tinned and Frozen	
Tinned Rice ...	12	Chicken ...	35
Tinned and Frozen Peas	164	Frozen Broccoli ...	21
Tinned and Frozen Beans	38	Frozen Fish and Chips	14
Tinned Tomatoes ...	33	Ice Cream ...	56
Tinned Strawberryes ...	5	Frozen Braised Beef ...	14
Tinned Pork ...	52	Frozen Cheese and Beef	
Tinned Stewing Steak	17	Burgers ...	7
Tinned Ham ...	225	Frozen Puff Pastry ...	11
Jellied Veal ...	34	Frozen Spinach ...	10
Corned Beef ...	132	Frozen Sweet Corn ...	7
Tinned Lambs Liver ...	2	Frozen Fish Fingers ...	15
Frozen Beef Kidneys	161	Tinned Pilchards ...	8
Pork Luncheon Meat	27	Frozen Kippers ...	3
Tinned Soup ...	15	Frozen Asparagus Tips	2
Tinned Pork Loin ...	14	Tinned Tuna Fish ...	1
Tinned Syrup ...	2	Jarred Jam ...	30
Tinned Carrots ...	17	Butter ...	84
Tinned Oranges ...	1	Tinned Beetroot ...	3
Tinned Ox Tongue ...	12	Tinned Apples ...	4
Tinned Spaghetti ...	5	Tinned Sausages ...	3
Demerara Sugar ...	20	Raisins ...	20
Sultanas ...	20	Desiccated Coconut ...	5
Turbot ...	8	Prunes ...	20
Tinned Cream and Milk	22	M'scellaneous ...	91
Tinned Shoulder Bacon	64		

Total — 1,949 lb.

Food Preparing Premises

The number of premises totalling 190 where food is prepared, stored or retailed is as follows:—

Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	43
Restaurants (including snack bars)	...	...	...	13
Works Canteens	...	...	...	10
School Canteens	...	...	...	9
Butchers	...	...	...	13
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	5
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	1
Wet and Dried Fish Shops	...	...	...	8
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	2
Dairies	...	...	...	2
Grocers	...	...	...	44
Greengrocers	...	...	...	11
Bakehouses	...	...	...	8
Bread and Cake Confectioners	...	...	...	5
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	16

Of these numbers, shops dealing with more than one of these items are classified once

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The provision of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, relating to the sampling of food and drugs are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that Department has kindly supplied the following details of the samples taken during the year:

Butter	2	Canned Fruit	1
Coffee Essence	1	Condiments	2
Coffee	4	Cream of Tartar	1
Fish Cakes	1	Dried Fruit	7
Ice Cream	5	Fresh Fruit	2
Jellies	1	Cooking Fat	5
Margarine	2	Marzipan	1
Meat Paste	1	Milk Powder	1
Preserves	7	Puddings	1
Mincemeat	1	Spices	2
Sausages	4	Sugar	2
Ground Almonds	1	Tinned Meat	1
Beverages	2	Tinned Vegetables	1
Bread	3	Milk	29
Total — 91 Samples.			

In addition to the above, the following samples were taken at the premises of wholesalers outside the Urban District who supply the shops within the District:—

Butter	8	Buttered Sweets	9
Cream	3	Sausages	3
Plain Flour	1	Ground Almonds	1
Jellies	1	Blancmange Powder	1
Margarine	1	Cooked Meats	5
Mayonnaise	1	Sugar Confectionary	4
Suet	1	Marzipan	1
Preserves	3	Puddings	5
Marmalade	1	Tinned Meat	1
Mincemeat	1	Milk	3
Total — 54 Samples.			

All the above samples were found, on analysis, to be satisfactory, with the exception of one ice cream sample which was found to be deficient in fat. Proceedings were instituted under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations, 1959. The case was proved at Braintree Court and a fine of £5 was imposed together with costs of £3 15s. 6d.

Of the milk samples seven were taken at schools and six at hospitals.